GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:156
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007
NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PLAN
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revamp the Rs. 5,000 crore National river Conservation Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy adopted by the Government to revamp National River Conservation Plan and the reasons therefore;

(c) whether there is lack of coordination among different departments and States working on the programmes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government for establishing coordination among different departments and the States working on the conservation programmes?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Questions NO. 156 to be answered on Wednesday, the 22nd August, 2007 on "National River Conservation Plan".

(a) & (b) Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process. Water being a State subject, it is the responsibility of State Governments to create proper sewerage infrastructure to prevent pollution from entering the rivers. Central Government is only supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing one time grant for capital works for identified polluted stretches.

(c) & (d) The pollution abatement works are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments for the purpose. A multi-tier monitoring mechanism at the Centre and State level reviews the policy issues, funding pattern and progress of works from time to time. The States have been advised to ensure coordination among various Departments/agencies at the implementation level through holding regular meetings by Principal Secretary/Chief Secretary and to sort out inter-sectoral issues like acquisition of land, power supply, mobilization of resources among others.